**Penny L., MYP5 – Obituary for John Snow**

John Snow died on 16th June, 1858 at the age of 45. He will be remembered for his contribution to the advancement of medicine knowledge with his work on cholera and with his experiments with anesthetics. He helped English Queen Victoria when she gave birth to her son Leopold and her daughter Beatrice. A vegetarian, who, when he spoke in public, was known to go straight to the point but wasn’t always great at keeping it interesting.

John Snow, born 15th March, 1813, was the oldest of nine kids. His dad was a farmer and his mother was a home-working mom. Their family was very poor. They lived in one of the poorest areas in York, England along the River Ouse. He began school in a regular school for poor kids up till the age of 14, when he travelled 80 miles away from home to a man called William Hardcastle, who taught Snow the everyday basis stuff for practicing medicine. So this was where the young explorer begins his journey. While he was practicing medicine at Hardcastle, he also attended the local Infirmary in Newcastle, where he took some lectures on medicine. In 1833, at the age of 20, Snow became an assistant to physician, but just one year later he travelled back to York and became joined a local practice with a doctor called Joseph Warburton. 2 years after that, in October, Snow set his way to London because he wanted to become better at the knowledge of medicine. In London, Snow attended Hunterian School of Medicine to study and he soon after became a member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and shortly after this he got a qualification as a Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries.

Shortly after his qualification, Snow wanted to get serious in the medicine world and set up his own practice in the Soho district in London. He still attended some lectures on medicine, even though he was qualified to carry out a medicine practice by himself. He earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Medicine in the University of London in 1843 and became a member of the Licentiate of Royal College of Physicians of England in June, 1850. He studied some toxicology which led to his work on anesthetics and cholera, which was an epidemic that, at the time Snow was around, was killing many people.

Now the original theory of cholera was miasma, which was bad air, as the people believed that cholera was an air-borne disease. Snow was not satisfied with this idea, so when the epidemic hit his area in Soho, he tried out different experiments. One of these was testing the water pump found in the middle of street, and he found that this water had been contaminated by a leak in the pipe, and he shut it down and told people to use other pumps, and he found that less people were sick. This started his theory of cholera being water-borne. He also studied the use of anesthetics, because he heard it was used in America and he brought it forward when he used anesthetics when Queen Victoria of England gave birth to Prince Leopold and Princess Beatrice.

His personal life is not properly described any place, so I’m uncertain about his marriage and children. He died at the age of 45 of a stroke.

I think John Snow made a big impact on the medicine knowledge by what he did with cholera because it was important for the city to know how to fight this off, so that people wouldn’t get killed by this disease. The experience and testing of anesthetics was also important to human knowledge, as it was used for different purposes that were important.

These things show that John Snow thought differently and really wanted to make a difference in the world with his work and he really did. He was famous with the queen and helped the people around him. This makes him the greatest man of medicine.

Sources:

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